

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 17, 18, 24-30 and 38 were pending. The Office Action dated October 17, 2007 in this Application has been carefully considered. The above amendments and the following remarks are presented in a sincere attempt to place this Application in condition for allowance. Claims 24, 26 and 30 have been amended in this Response. Claims 17, 18 and 25 have been cancelled canceled without prejudice in this Response. As a result, Claims 1-6, 24, 26-30 and 38 remain pending. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for an indication that Claims 1-6 and 38 are in condition for the allowance and that Claims 25-30 contain allowable subject matter. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 17, 18 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,668,667 to Seliger ("Seliger") In light of the amendments submitted herewith, Applicant respectfully submit that the rejections of Claims 17 and 18 are moot, and the rejection of Claim 24 has been overcome. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claim 24 be withdrawn.

While not conceding the merits of the rejections, Applicant has canceled Claims 17 and 18 without prejudice and amended Claim 24 to incorporate the limitations of Claim 25, in order to expedite prosecution. In light of the amendment to Claim 24, Claim 25 has been canceled. Applicant reserves the right to resubmit the canceled claims and states that the subject matter thereof has not been dedicated to the public.

In view of Claim 24 reciting subject matter that the Examiner has identified as allowable, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of amended Claim 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) be withdrawn and that Claim 24 be allowed.

Claims 25-30 stand objected to for their dependence from a rejected base Claim. Claim 25 has been canceled, rendering its objection moot. Claims 26 and 30 have been amended to reflect dependence from Claim 24. Applicant respectfully asserts that Claims 26-30 remain patentable. For the aforementioned reason that Claim 24 should be deemed to be in condition for allowance, Claims 26-30 should also be deemed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant requests withdrawal of the objections to Claims 26-30.

Applicant has now made an earnest attempt to place this Application in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicant respectfully requests full allowance of Claims 1-6, 24, 26-30 and 38.

Applicant does not believe that any fees are due; however, in the event that any fees are due, the Director is hereby authorized to charge any required fees due (other than issue fees), and to credit any overpayment made, in connection with the filing of this paper to Deposit Account No. 50-0605 of CARR LLP.

Should the Examiner deem that any further amendment is desirable to place this application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: January 16, 2008
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